

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Albert Namatjira Painting Donated to Araluen Arts Centre

An Albert Namatjira watercolour painting valued at \$96,000 has been donated to Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs Cultural Precinct (ASCP).

ASCP Director Tim Rollason said the painting of Hermannsburg Mission with Mt Hermannsburg in the background was delivered to the Araluen Arts Centre last week.

“Albert Namatjira is the pre-eminent realist artist of Central Australia and the pioneer of the Aboriginal watercolour movement in the region, for which he is nationally and internationally acclaimed,” Mr Rollason said.

“This artwork measuring 28x38.7cm was completed about 70 years ago and is an early example of Albert Namatjira’s accomplished works.

“This painting references the location of where he lived and produced many of his works and will be a wonderful addition to the Albert Namatjira Gallery display in the Araluen Arts Centre.”

Mr Rollason said the kind person who donated the work, who did not want their name revealed, is a descendant of Pastor Albrecht, a Missionary at Hermannsburg from 1926 to 1952.

“The person who so kindly donated the work to the Araluen Arts Centre has further enabled the public to enjoy and appreciate Albert Namatjira’s art in the future and possibly reflect upon some of the many changes that have occurred since this painting was completed,” Mr Rollason said.

“This painting seems to perfectly capture the two cultures that influenced the life of Albert Namatjira through the clever juxtaposition of his traditional land, Mt Hermannsburg, beside the historic buildings of the Hermannsburg Mission.

“This year is the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hermannsburg Mission and we publicly thank the person donating this painting to us to coincide with this anniversary.

“It is also hoped by all of us here at ASCP, and the kind person donating this work, that young artists will be inspired by the amazing talent of Albert Namatjira to also achieve great things.”

“We also hope that other people with works by Albert Namatjira will be inspired by this donation, and that we continue to see more works by the artist returned to the country of their origin.

“This is so that the family of the artist can remain in contact with the works, and so that visitors to the Araluen Arts Centre have the ability to see the broadest range of works by the artist as possible.”

The Alice Springs Cultural Precinct is open from 10am to 4pm on weekdays and 11am to 4pm on weekends.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Rebecca Farrell on 8951 1132**

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